

I could hear of no others outside of that immediate locality. This is, I believe, the most northerly record for the species.—E. C. THURBER, *Alhambra, Cal.*

The Key West Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon martinica*) at Key West.—It is of interest to note the capture of an adult male of this species by Mr. J. W. Atkins at Key West on September 15, 1889. This is the only occasion, in some three years of careful field work, on which the species has been encountered by Mr. Atkins, and I append his notes on the subject.

"I went to the woods at daylight (September 15) to learn if Swainson's Warbler had arrived, and plunging into the lowest and thickest of the wood to look for that species I finally discovered one Swainson's Warbler, a very wild and shy bird. In the pursuit of the bird in question, while wending my way carefully and slowly through the thick underbrush, the Dove (*Geotrygon martinica*) was discovered on the ground about eight paces ahead of me. I secured it with dust shot from my 40 calibre gun. I saw but the one Swainson's Warbler and did not secure it."

Mr. Atkins has kindly sent me the bird, No. 3269 of my register. It is an adult male that has just completed the moult, and is in very fine unworn plumage.—W. E. D. SCOTT, *Tarpon Springs, Fla.*

Buteo brachyurus and B. fuliginosus.—The evidence presented by Mr. Scott in the July (1889) number of 'The Auk' (pp. 243—245), apparently removes all doubt as to these two very dissimilar birds being simply phases of one species, a view of their relationship which has for many years been held by leading European ornithologists,³ but which I could not share, for reasons fully explained by me on pages 209, 210 of Bulletin N. O. C. for October, 1881. Mr. Scott's suggestion, however, that "the bird known as *B. brachyurus* is the female, and that called *B. fuliginosus* the male" is certainly incorrect in that it implies that such is *always* the case; for I have examined males and females of both forms (see the article quoted above). I would add that as each phase is also represented by very young birds, the variation would appear to be a purely *individual* one, as in the cases of the two phases of the Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*) and of several other species of *Buteo*—the difference from the latter being that in the case of *B. brachyurus* the large majority of specimens are either typically one phase or the other, while in other *Buteones* examples of various intermediate character are decidedly the more numerous instead of exceptional.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

New York City Owls.—Strix pratincola. AMERICAN BARN OWL.—On April 13, 1878, Mr. Joseph Wilde brought a fresh specimen to Mr. Edward Conway, taxidermist, of 55 Carmine St., New York City, stating that it was killed "just outside the City."

Nyctala acadica. SAW-WHET OWL.—While walking on the upper part of Manhattan Island, above High Bridge, on the Harlem River, March 13,

1881. I saw a fine Saw-Whet Owl which alighted on a stump among some red cedars and afterwards flew freely about without apparent inconvenience, the day being dark and cloudy.—EDGAR A. MEARNS, M. D., *Fort Snelling, Minn.*

Megascops asio maxwelliæ.—Three ejected pellets of the Rocky Mountain Screech Owl, sent by Mr. Denis Gale from Gold Hill, Boulder Co., Colorado, for examination as to nature of food, and examined by Dr. A. K. Fisher of the Department of Agriculture, have been found to contain the following materials.

No. 1. The remains of a meadow mouse (*Arvicola*) and crawfish.

No. 2. Made up almost entirely of the remains of crawfish with a few fragments of beetles.

No. 3. Remains of crawfish.—CHARLES E. BENDIRE, *Washington, D. C.*

The American Hawk Owl near Washington, D. C.—It may be of interest to the readers of 'The Auk' that a fine specimen of *Surnia ulula caparock* was taken here in the District of Columbia on the 29th of November, 1889, and is now in the hands of Mr. Webster, the taxidermist of Washington. Is it not an unusual locality for it?—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Washington, D. C.*

Note on *Cyanocitta stelleri litoralis* Maynard. — In separating the Vancouver Island Jay as a new form, I fear Mr. Maynard was influenced by insufficient material. Comparison of six specimens from Vancouver Island with a series of some twenty *stelleri* taken in the adjoining coast region, and in British Columbia by Mr. Clark P. Streater, shows that the characters assigned the island bird are neither constant nor peculiar. In three of the six the bands across the tail are very evident; in the three remaining the bands are obsolete or appreciable only in certain lights, but these three specimens are exactly matched by several examples in my series from the mainland.

The same variation in markings is also shown by other members of this group, and I have examined specimens of *frontalis* from California, and *macrolopha* from Arizona and Sonora, in the collections of Mr. Brewster and the American Museum, in which the barring of wings and tail was reduced to the minimum.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Capture of a Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) near Cambridge, Massachusetts.—Mr. James R. Mann has given me permission to announce the interesting fact that a Canada Jay was shot at Arlington Heights (within sight of Cambridge and less than four miles distant in an air line) by Mr. E. B. Winship, Oct. 17, 1889. The specimen was mounted, and is now in Mr. Mann's collection. It is a male in perfect autumnal plumage. The stomach was filled with the remains of "wasps or bees," but contained no traces of other food.